



CARPENTER WITHOUT SIGHT—Alex Meuvissen, blind carpenter of Chaska, Minn., lays ridge shingles on house roof depending upon developed senses of touch and hearing.

Nixon Demands More Loan Probes

WASHINGTON, (AP)—Sen. Nixon (R-Calif.) called today for a full-scale inquiry and public hearings to bring out all the facts about any government loan activities of Mrs. Flo Bratten and Charles D. Shaver.

Shaver submitted his resignation yesterday as counsel for the senate small business committee. Chairman Sparkman (D-Ala.) accepted it promptly.

Shaver has said that Mrs. Bratten, secretary to Vice Pres. Barkley, joined him in making visits to officials of the reconstruction finance corporation to ask about more than a million dollars in federal loans.

Both already have been questioned in a preliminary inquiry by the senate investigations subcommittee, but Nixon told reporters that only a thorough public investigation will clear up the situation.

Nixon is a member of the committee. He said that the criticism of his conduct might impair the work of the small business group. Two members of the group Sens. Thye (R-Minn.) and Schoepfel (R-Kan.) has urged that Shaver be suspended pending an investigation.

Involved in RFC approval of a \$1,100,000 loan for a proposed luxury hotel—the Chalfonte—in Miami Beach and a \$325,000 loan to the Mercury Record Co. of Chicago. Sponsors in each case objected to the RFC's terms and no money was advanced to them.

Nixon said that "the only way we can get at all the facts is to have a public hearing." He said he felt this should be done in fairness both to those involved and to the public, adding that "an implication has been raised about the vice president and employees of the senate."

Barkley talked with reporters in his office, first telling them he was having a stenographic record made of all that was said.

First off, he was asked if he was going to keep Mrs. Bratten as a secretary. That's a question I am not ready to answer," he replied.

He said he did not have all the facts yet and wanted to see what the investigations subcommittee's inquiry develops.

When he became vice president, Barkley continued, he tried to make it plain to everyone in his office that "while we were not going to be high-hat," he was no longer a senator and didn't think the vice president "ought to be calling up departments and doing departmental work."

"I tried to divest myself of all departmental matters," he said, adding that he had so instructed his staff.

Barkley said that "I never asked for a loan for anybody" but he said that when he was a senator, if a constituent asked about the status of a loan application, he saw no reason why he shouldn't inquire about it and report to his constituent.

constituent.

He said Mrs. Bratten told him that all she did in connection with the hotel loan was to ask about its status and had not urged that it be granted.

He said she also told him that "in no case did she ever receive one penny for any favor she ever rendered." Barkley added he had no reason to doubt her statement.

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Hardboard Plants Grow To Utilize Wood Waste

PORTLAND, (NEA)—A new wood products industry is springing up in the Pacific Northwest in the heart of the nation's largest virgin forests. Wood waste is being turned into usable sheets of hardboard.

By early next year, a string of seven new hardboard plants, costing well over \$15,000,000, will be in operation. It's the biggest thing in lumber since the advent of the Douglas fir plywood industry more than 25 years ago.

Hardboard is another answer to the timberman's continual search for new uses for wood waste. It is what the name implies. Wood waste is chewed up until it has lost its original cell structure and then pressed into boards under terrific pressure and heat. The result is a board of metal-hard surface.

The seven new plants, plus others now in the organizational stage, will turn out 850,000 square feet daily. That means that the nation's supply of hardboard will rise by nearly 40 percent.

MANY USES

Hardboard has many uses. In homes, it makes ceilings in attics, floors and cabinets. The automobile industry uses it for shelves over spare tires and backs of bus seats. Furniture makers use the material for everything from table tops to drawer bottoms.

It wasn't until 1948 that a foot of hardboard was made west of the Mississippi. The first hardboard was made at Laurel, Miss. There are other plants in the mid-west and the south now, and two already operating in Oregon. Sawmills and plywood companies are getting into the act. At Longview, Wash., the big Long-Bell Lumber Co. will press its waste wood into hardboard. At Lebanon, Ore., the large Cascades Plywood Co. will utilize wood shavings.

The trend in this area toward hardboard wasn't an overnight decision. Since its organization in 1945, the Plywood Research Foundation at Tacoma, Wash., has been testing the material. The research has shown sawmills and plywood plants that they can use virtually everything that comes from a high-priced log. Scrap wood sold to a pulp mill might bring only \$5 to \$5.50 per ton; the same amount of wood chewed up and pressed into hardboard will return \$18 to \$20.

Patents Thrown Open for Use

WASHINGTON, (AP)—Want to know how to produce dichlorododecafluoroheptane and derivatives thereof?

You can find out by going to the patent office. A method of prominent-owned patents which the ducing it was one of 25 government-owned patents which the released today. The AEC didn't say what dichlorododecafluoroheptane is useful for.

The 25 patents it released are available for royalty-free use by industry, under licenses granted by the AEC. The commission described them as non-secret—presumably of no great benefit to the Russians.

\$10.

The general process of making hardboard is similar to that used in paper making. After the wood waste has been reduced to chips, it is heated and pulped, resin and other chemicals are added. This wet mixture is spread on a blanket and a vacuum under the blanket sucks the water from the fibres while they are en route to the press. The heat and pressure are so great that a two-inch-thick wet pulpy blanket is reduced down to a quarter-inch-thick panel of hardboard.

"Hardboard," says one lumberman, "could be as common as plywood one of these days." Hardly a week passes that some new company isn't formed, with plans announced for a new hardboard plant. It's the latest in wood utilization.

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